

Brookline Preservation Commission

Demolition Application Report

Address: 92 Sewall Avenue

Applicant: Bryan Austin

Building Type: Inn

National Register Listing (if Applicable): N/A



Historical/Architectural Significance:

The Bertram Inn at 92 Sewall Avenue was permitted for construction in 1907 as a single family house for newlyweds Bessie V. (maiden name Vorenberg) and Carl Jacob Kaffenburgh. Kaffenburgh, a tobacco merchant and his family resided in the house until at least 1936. The structure was designed by Harry E. Davidson. Davidson had previously designed stucco houses with English Revival influences for both the Vorenberg and Kaffenburgh family including 20 Amory Street in the nearby Cottage Farm neighborhood. By 1940 the house was owned by Hazen Blood and his wife. The Bloods had previously resided at 19 Abbottsford Road and according to the 1930 census, had as many as 10 lodgers living with them. The Bloods continued their practice of renting out rooms and in 1940 the Bloods have 13 lodgers residing with them at 92 Sewall Avenue, and the property is listed as a rooming house in the 1940 directory. In 1987 the current owner, Bryan Austin, purchased the property, restored it and opened it as the Bertram Inn.

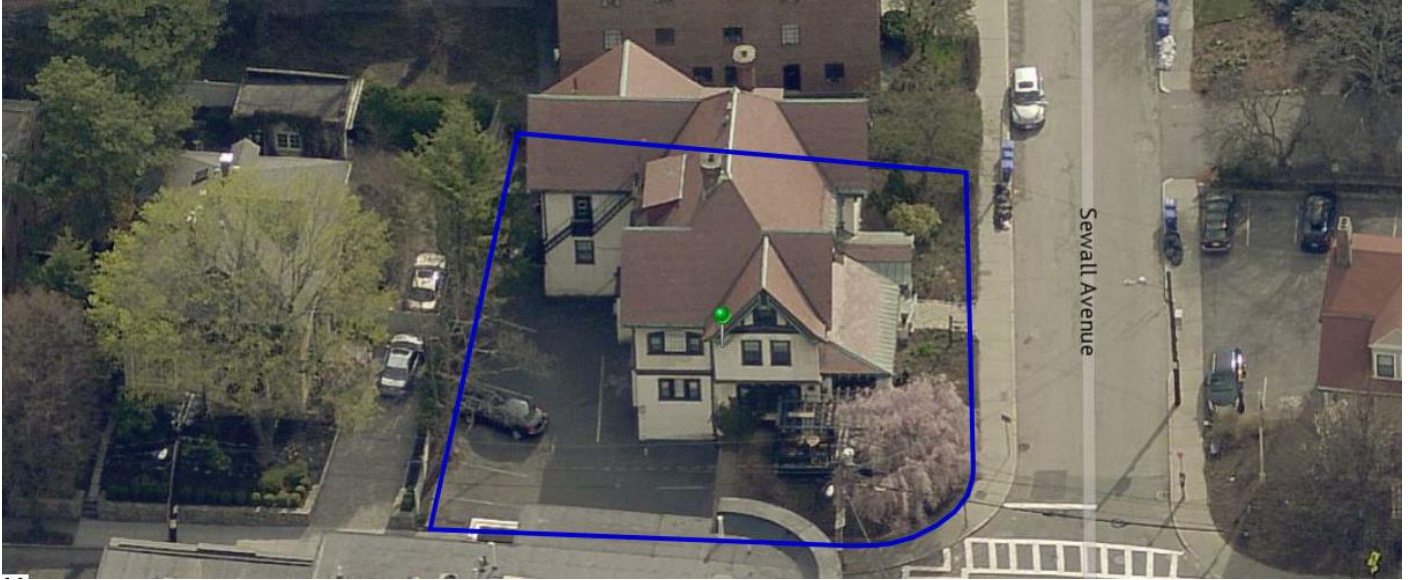
Architect Harry Davidson consistently designed large stucco single family dwellings in Massachusetts with English Revival characteristics as seen in the two and a half story structure at 92 Sewall Avenue. Notable features include gables on all four elevations with decorative half timbering, heavy carved bargeboards and drop pendants; as well as a hipped red slate roof and corbelled chimneys. An open veranda to the left of the entrance was enclosed at an unknown date and redone presumably by the current owner.

The building at 92 Sewall Avenue meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- c. The building is associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the town or Commonwealth; and

d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.

The building at 92 Sewall Avenue retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship and association.



Aerial view of 92 Sewall Avenue, looking east.



Aerial view of 92 Sewall Avenue, looking north.



Aerial view of 92 Sewall Avenue, looking west.



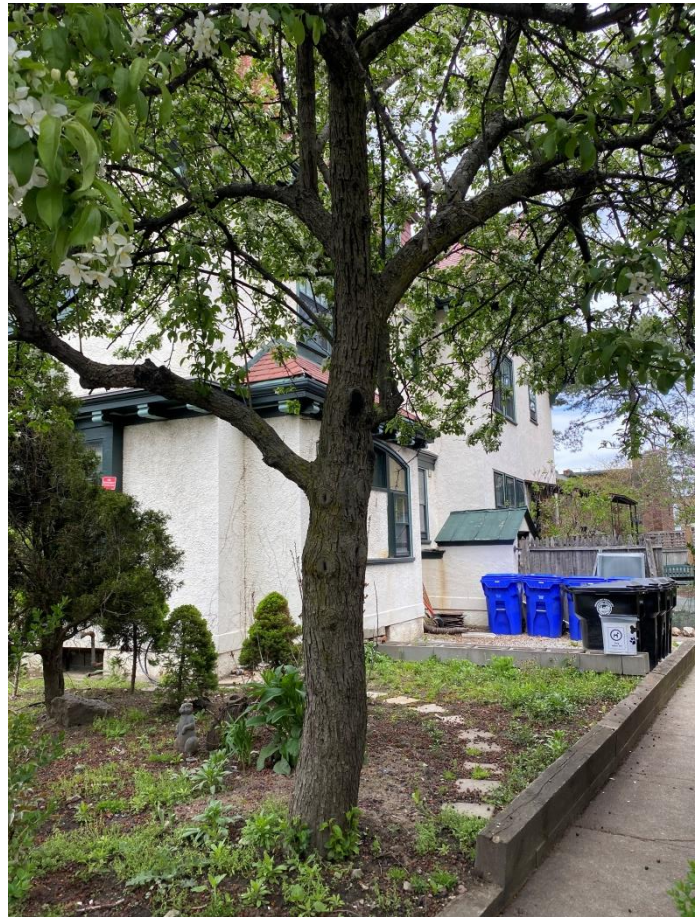
Aerial view of 92 Sewall Avenue, looking south.



Photographs of the front elevation of 92 Sewall Avenue



Photographs of the left side and rear elevations of 92 Sewall Avenue



Photographs of the right side elevation of 92 Sewall Avenue



1978 photograph of 92 Sewall Avenue